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Grain Update - Impressive Daily Price Ranges

By Brad Foster, Grain Business Team Leader

Corn futures have not settled lower for 8 consecutive days since late summer 2008. Futures have declined \$1.30 in less than 2 days on a barrage of news.

Unexpected corn basis weakening about two weeks ago puzzled many in the industry. At the same time, futures were testing the old highs from 2008 (aggravating months of margin calls for merchants) while the May/ July corn spread narrowed to 2 cents. Both of these factors created an incentive for merchants to move corn.

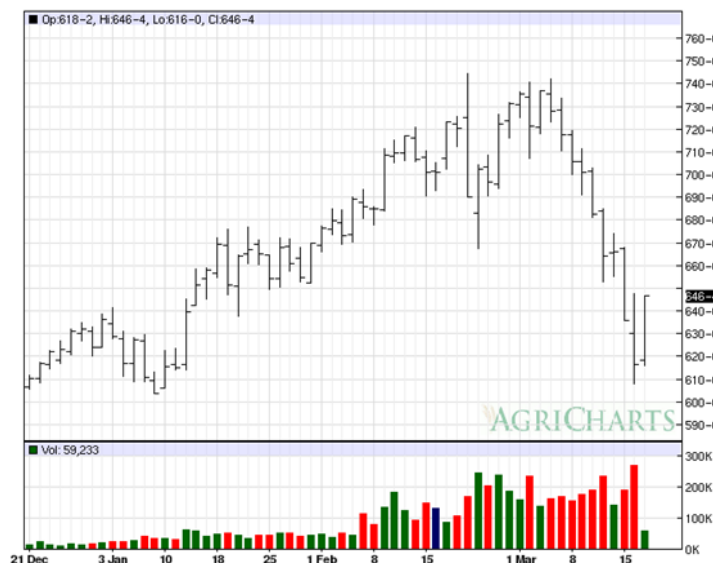
Three weeks ago, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced his concern for lawmakers to "create a cliff" for ethanol subsidies, and subsequently lawmakers submitted a House bill, eliminating the subsidy along with import tariffs. Both of these were psychologically bearish to the market, although most farmers and end-users of corn were arrogantly bullish.

Japan's disaster sent reverberations around the world; energy and grain futures traded lower as a result.

Technically, nearby corn filled a gap (two weeks ago) left back in 2008, and the spec funds joined index funds in liquidating their long positions.

Most importantly, there was no way to predict any of these events and the market's reaction to them. Therefore, another lesson learned the hard way... prices cannot be predicted. This is the reason Viafield promotes risk management programs for its producers.

If you have any questions on risk management or anything grain related, please contact one of our Grain Marketing Relationship Managers today.



Market Volatility

The pictured chart shows just how volatile the corn market has been in the last couple of months.

Markets at viafield.com

Charts like this one can be viewed at the Viafield homepage 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Cenex Warranty Plan Offered at Your Cooperative

Spring Update from the Energy Team



With spring approaching, consider protecting all your equipment with the Cenex Total Protection Plan offered through Viafield. For a small investment, you get peace of mind and unsurpassed coverage, while helping to ensure that only high-quality energy products go into your equipment.

Think of it as a no-fault insurance policy - one that helps keep you in the fields when you need to be there. There's no burden of proof and no deductible, which can really pay off and help keep things moving during crunch times like planting and harvest.

When you use Cenex lubricants and Ruby Fieldmaster Premium Diesel

fuels exclusively, you get up to 10 years or 10,000 hours of engine and transmission coverage.

The Plan is Simple. All you have to do is:

- * Request a warranty application form from your nearest Viafield Location; submit a completed form with the enrollment fee.
- * Perform regular maintenance procedures.
- * Submit a used fluid sample form each oil change or drain according to your warranty agreement. (In return, you'll receive a LubeScan report that will help you perform timely maintenance to avoid downtime.)
- * Use Cenex products exclusively.

* Retain proof of purchase for all Cenex products.

* Avoid actions that would void coverage, such as abuse or unauthorized product use.

If you have any questions on this warranty plan or anything Energy related please call your Viafield Refined Fuel Sales Specialist or Propane Sales Specialist.

Fly Control for ALL your Dairy Animals - From Calves through Lactation

By Bill Hayes, Feed Business Team Leader

Now is the Time to Plan Your Fly Control. Flies bite, spread disease, and cause discomfort and stress, impacting the health and performance of your dairy herd. Four types of flies threaten your cows. A house fly spreads disease just through contact. The face fly spreads disease when it feeds on eye fluids and moves from animal to animal. The stable fly and the horn fly have the most painful bite. ClariFly® is an EPA registered feed additive intended to control all four.

While larvacides have been available in calf starters, it has not been a consistent way to control flies because of the low intake in pre-weaned calves. Now, ClariFly® in milk replacer closes this gap!

Your calves don't have to suffer from flies when their nutrition comes from Viafield and Land O'Lakes Purina Feed.

ClariFly is available in a complete dairy animal feeding program – from milk replacer to starter, grower, heifer, transition and lactation feeds.

But you need to act now to protect your herd. ClariFly should be started 30 days before the spring fly season, which typically starts in mid- to late-April in Iowa.

Contact your Viafield nutritionist today, so your dairy herd doesn't have to suffer from flies this spring:

Dairy Production Specialists
Lynn Bleuer – 563-650-1983,
Dan Franzen – 563-380-7473,
Sharon Green – 563-568-8742,

Beef Production Specialist
Mike Kirby – 563-419-9522



A Value Added Opportunity for Viafield Members

A vehicle purchasing program offered through your cooperative and Land O' Lakes and CHS

Viafield Active members can leverage the buying power of Land O' Lakes and CHS purchasing their cars and trucks through their fleet services program.

Items to Note:

- Vehicle is built to your specifications
- Trade-ins on vehicle purchases are welcome
- All incentives advanced to qualifying members in purchase price

- Truck equipment available

For more details please contact:

Jason Bill

Saxon Fleet Services
651-312-1873
jbill@saxonfleetservices.com

Jason Bill is your Land O' Lakes and CHS vehicle purchasing program account manager.

2011 Models Are Available

Ford
Lincoln
Ford Med Duty
Chevrolet
GMC
Cadillac
Chrysler
Dodge
Dodge Med Duty
Jeep

Finance, Pay Cash, or Lease

Are Farmers "Changing" Midwest Summer Weather?

By Craig Solberg, Freese Notis Weather



Nine of the 25 hottest summers ever recorded for the Nation occurred between 1998 and

2010...and yet during that same time frame, summer temperatures in the Midwest averaged normal to even slightly below normal. Midwest precipitation for the two-decade period ending in 1990 averaged below normal (and included droughts in 1980, 1983, and 1988)...and yet for the following two-decades averaged well above normal (and included record-wet summers in 1993, 2008, and 2010). It is possible that this lack of summer heat and abundance of summer rainfall in the Corn Belt in recent years is due to changing farming practices. Here's just a couple reasons why:

1) We are growing a lot more corn and soybeans in the Midwest, and this comes at the expense of acreage that used to be devoted to wheat and oats. Instead of having a lot of dry, brown wheat/oat acreage in the Midwest in the summer (something that would be conducive for keeping temperatures warmer and keeping humidity levels lower), we now have acres upon acres of lush, green corn and soybeans (something more conducive for keeping temperatures cool, and something that puts a lot of moisture into the atmosphere from transpiration).

2) We are planting corn and soybeans with much higher plant populations. Take corn for example. In the past, plant populations of 18 to 24 thousand per acre were acceptable (with row widths of 36 or even 40 inches), That put a lot of space between plants, which allowed sunlight to more easily reach the soil and dry it out (thus

a better environment for warmer temperatures). With current farming practices, plant populations of 28 to 32 thousand per acre (or more) are now the norm (with row widths to 30 inches, and even some experimenting with 15 inch rows). That higher population creates a much tighter canopy, and thus keeps the sun from drying the soil (and thus serves to make temperatures cooler).

Freese-Notis Weather has served the agricultural industry with weather forecasts for nearly 40 years, and their daily weather commentary is used by many top grain producers, users, and traders to make their marketing decisions. E-mail Craig Solberg at csolberg@weather.net or visit their website at <http://www.weather.net/agriculture> for further details.

**Freese-Notis
Weather**





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Spring Update Issue

Your Cooperative Viafield

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- Grain Market Update - Grain Team
- Cenex Warranty Program - Energy Team
- Planning your Fly Control - Feed Team
- Are Farmers Changing Midwest Weather - Craig Solberg, Freese Notis Weather
- Opportunity for Viafield Members to Purchase Cars and Trucks at a Discount

Look inside for more information!

www.viafield.com